

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 22 (Cancel)

1. (Represented - Formerly Claim 1) A strip casting machine comprised of two casting rollers arranged parallel to each other and forming an adjustable casting gap delimited on both sides by narrow lateral guides, a stand supporting the casting rollers, wherein the casting rollers have cooled roll barrels forming the adjustable casting gap, and wherein bearing journals are provided for supporting the casting rollers on the stand, wherein the cooled roll barrel is comprised essentially of a cylindrical casing, and wherein the casing of each casting roller is at least at both ends thereof supported by support elements mounted on a stationary axle fixedly connected to the stand, and wherein at least one of the support elements is drivable.

24. (Represented - Formerly a feature of claim 1) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the support elements rotatably arranged on the stationary axle protrude at both ends into the casing.

25. (Represented - Formerly claim 3) The strip casting machine according to claim 3, wherein the support elements are concentric bearing rings connected to the casing.

26. (Represented - Formerly claim 4) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the supporting elements form a part of the casing.

27. (Represented - Formerly claim 5) The strip casting machine according to claim 25, wherein a first portion of a length of the bearing rings projects into the casing and is provided with inlet and outlet bores between the stationary axle and the casing for circulation of a cooling medium, and wherein a second portion of the length of the bearing rings projects from the casing and is provided with bearing elements and drive elements for a rotational movement of the casing.

28. (Represented - Formerly claim 6) The strip casting machine according to claim 25, wherein one of the bearing rings has a crown gear which meshes with a toothing of a stationary drive.

29. (Represented - Formerly claim 8) The strip casting machine according to claim 28, comprising at least one annular torque motor for driving the casing via the bearing ring.

30. (Represented - Formerly claim 9) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the bearing rings are provided with radial bores and grooves for feeding the cooling medium from the stationary axle to the casing.

31. (Represented - Formerly claim 10) The strip casting machine according to claim 30, wherein the stationary axle is provided on both ends with axial bores and with radial bores aligned with grooves of the bearing rings.

32. Represented - Formerly claim 11) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the casing is provided across its circumference with axially arranged bores for a circulation of the cooling medium.

33. (Represented - Formerly claim 12) The strip casting machine according to claim 25, comprising engaging keys having a straining ring provided between the bearing rings and the casing.

34. (Represented - Formerly claim 13) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the stationary axle has inlet and outlet means for the cooling medium, wherein the inlet and outlet means simultaneously connect or disconnect inlet and outlet lines for cooling medium in the stand when the casting roller is inserted into or lifted off the stand.

35. (Represented - Formerly claim 14) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the stationary axle is provided on both sides of the casing with a stop surface and a support surface.

36. (Represented - Formerly claim 15) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, further comprising locking elements for fixedly securing the stationary axle to both sides of the stand.

37. (Represented - Formerly claim 16) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein an electromagnetic brake for a metal bath between the rollers is arranged between the rotatable casing and the stationary

axle.

38. (Represented - Formerly claim 17) The strip casting machine according to claim 37, wherein the electromagnetic brake is arranged within the casting roller and stationarily on the stationary axle.

39. (Represented - Formerly claim 19) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the drive of the casting rollers is effected by means of a motor arranged on or at the axle.

40. (Represented - Formerly a feature of claim 19) The strip casting machine according to claim 39, wherein the motor is a brushless annular torque motor.

41. (Represented - Formerly claim 20) The strip casting machine according to claim 23, wherein the casing is configured as a single piece or of multiple pieces.

42. (Represented - Formerly claim 21) The strip casting machine according to claim 41, wherein the casing pieces are connected by an electron-beam weld joint.